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Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/141, decided to create the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Assembly also decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights should:

(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and should possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;

(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

2. On 28 July 2008, the General Assembly, in its decision 62/420, approved the proposal of the Secretary-General that Navanethem Pillay (South Africa) be appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a fixed term of four years. Ms. Pillay's term of office will expire on 31 August 2012.

3. In the light of the provisions of resolution 48/141, the Secretary-General proposes to extend the appointment of Ms. Pillay as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a period of two years, beginning on 1 September 2012, and expiring on 31 August 2014.

4. The Secretary-General trusts that the General Assembly will approve this extension.

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